

## **BMP #113 - Clearing Limits**

### **DESCRIPTION**

Minimize the total amount of bare soil exposed to erosive forces by (1) controlling the amount of ground that is cleared and grubbed at one time in preparation for construction, and (2) limiting the amount of time that bare ground may remain exposed before slope protection or stabilization measures are put into place. This measure, in conjunction with appropriate timing (avoiding the rainy season) , can reduce erosion and sedimentation.

### **APPLICATIONS**

Any areas where vegetation must be removed to facilitate construction. This practice should be a design consideration of all projects. It may be necessary to carefully coordinate land clearing, grading, and erosion control measures--see BMP #110-Timing of Construction.

### **LIMITATIONS**

None.

### **DESIGN PARAMETERS**

- Evaluate the erosion potential of the project site (based on slope, soil type, intended season of work, use of heavy equipment).
- Based on the above analysis, establish the maximum allowable area that may be exposed at one time. The project site plan should clearly specify the maximum allowable exposure area.
- Initiate slope protection and reclamation as work progresses to help minimize the amount of disturbed soil.
- In all cases, stabilization measures should be initiated within 14 days after ceasing work in a given area or as soon as practicable during seasonally arid periods.

### **CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES**

- Do not disturb any areas that are not actually needed for the specified construction or related staging activities. See BMP #112-Preservation of Existing Vegetation.

#### **Targeted Pollutants**

- ☒ Sediment
- ☐ Phosphorus
- ☐ Trace metals
- ☐ Bacteria
- ☐ Petroleum hydrocarbons

#### **Physical Limits**

Drainage area unlimited

Max slope unlimited

Min bedrock depth N/A

Min water table N/A

SCS soil type ABCD

Freeze/Thaw good

Drainage/Flood control no

- Conduct work in units or stages so that construction and stabilization take place promptly after clearing and grubbing and as much of the site as possible is ready for seeding each time the specified seeding season arrives.
- Implement soil stabilization measures concurrently with the progress of clearing and grading work to minimize the length of time that bare ground lies exposed to erosion.
- At the approach of a designated seeding season, be prepared to seed all portions of the project that are ready for seeding (as required).

## **MAINTENANCE**

Conduct periodic inspections to check for unnecessary ground disturbance. Also check for clearing and grubbing beyond the contractor's capability and progress in keeping grading and pollution control measures current (in accordance with accepted work schedule).